

there seems to be reevaluation and hesitation by the administration: Do we move forward with more energy and commitment to achieve total success? Do we pack up and abandon Afghanistan heeding the cries of the weak that demand peace, peace, any price for peace? Or do we hold the line preventing success or failure?

Our commander on the ground, General McChrystal, wants more troops to ensure American victory. Meanwhile, delays, deliberation, and indecision leave our troops prey to the Taliban.

Our troops are waiting for an answer; the Afghan people are waiting. Our enemy, the Taliban, is not waiting. They are encouraged by our inaction. They believe we will falter. They're on a determined mission to spread hate and terror throughout the region.

Indecision is a recipe for failure. We would do well to remember the words of President Kennedy when he said: "Let every nation know that we will pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

America must stop the enemy of humanity.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH REFORM DAILY MYTH-BUSTER: IMPACT ON SENIORS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, there have been many myths about our health reform, and I want to give just a few facts.

Decisions about your health will be made by you, your doctor, and your family and not by anyone else.

They're saying that health care reform will lead to rationed care. Mr. Speaker, the fact is nothing will stand between you and your doctor or prevent you from making the best health care decisions yourself.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's a myth saying we can't afford to fix health care during an economic crisis. Well, rising health care costs are hurting our families and businesses now and driving up the budget deficit. If we do nothing, the cost of health care premiums will eat us up more and more. It will eat up your monthly paycheck, and the prescription drug doughnut hole won't get fixed.

CREATING JOBS SHOULD BE TOP PRIORITY

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, creating jobs and getting America back to work should be Congress' top priority. Unemployment nears 10 percent nationally and even higher in my district. We need to keep our efforts focused on the economy.

Today, there's a report the White House is looking for tax credits for

companies that create new jobs. I fully support the incentive and think the American people would as well. According to The New York Times, the Federal Government tried this approach in 1977, 1978. During that period, employment climbed at a record pace. An economic review study suggested in 1970 that the policy was responsible for creating 700,000 jobs of the 2.1 million jobs created during that period.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue.

WORLD HABITAT DAY

(Mr. MILLER of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 1985 the United Nations General Assembly designated the first Monday in October as World Habitat Day. This year, the theme is Planning Our Urban Future.

Approximately half of the world's population now lives in urban areas, and that number will rise to two-thirds in a generation. Cities can be engines for economic growth; but they can also become home to extreme poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and conflict. In many parts of the world, government policies do not adequately respond to the challenges of growing urban populations.

Nearly one-third of the world's population of people living in cities around the world now already live in slums, and that number will also rise to double what it is now in 30 years.

I rise today to honor World Habitat Day and the goal of improved urban planning. We can have a sustainable prosperous future, but only if we help the rural cities address the needs that come from explosive growth.

"WHITE COATS" AT THE WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with my white physician's coat because apparently if you're a doctor, this white coat is a prerequisite for a meeting at the White House. You can see by this photo that the White House felt so strongly about this that they actually handed out white coats to the doctors that they invited to their photo-op on Monday.

Mr. Speaker, on September 11 I requested a meeting with the President, responding to his statement before Congress that his door is always open to talk about health care reform. Many of my colleagues in the GOP Doctors Caucus have also asked for meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I am here on the floor today to say to the President, I am a doctor, and I, too, have a white coat. I would like a meeting with you to talk about health care reform because I,

like so many doctors across this country, we support meaningful reform, just not a government takeover.

And, Mr. Speaker, I am here to say I can even bring my own white coat.

SWIPE FEE LEGISLATION

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Financial Services Committee will hear testimony from Kathy Miller from the northern Vermont town of Elmore. Kathy and her husband run the Elmore Store; that is the general store, the post office, and the social hub of the small town of Elmore.

Kathy will be testifying in favor of interchange, or swipe fee, legislation which would finally prevent credit card companies from overcharging small businesses like the Millers and others around the country. With every purchase paid for by credit card, they are charged, the Millers, over 2 percent. And as they have with individuals, the credit card companies have come up with ever more reasons and gimmicks to squeeze money out of the bottom line of these small businesses.

Though the store itself in Elmore is a powerful force in the lives of the citizens, the Millers are absolutely powerless against the credit card companies and big banks. That's why Kathy Miller is coming to Washington to support legislation to end these abuses and to add fairness and transparency to swipe fees.

ACCOUNTING GIMMICKS IN PROPOSED HEALTH CARE

(Mr. CASSIDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, instead of passing health care reform that lowers costs, Democrats are positioned to pass a bill that hides costs by passing them on to State taxpayers. A frightening footnote in the Congressional Budget Office report on the Senate Financial Committee bill reveals a \$37 billion Medicaid mandate on State governments. Unlike the Federal Government, States can't just print money.

This \$37 billion mandate will force States across the Nation to choose between deep cuts to programs or steep tax hikes. In Louisiana alone, it's \$612 million over 5 years. That's \$612 million less for roads, for higher education, for secondary education, for economic development.

In addition to driving States into bankruptcy, this unfunded mandate deliberately hides the bill's true cost. Whether from Federal taxes or State taxes, the American people will have to absorb this.

If the bill actually lowered costs, its author would not have to hide behind accounting gimmicks to sell the bill.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It is perhaps appropriate that in this month we are all tasked to reform this Nation's health care system for the millions of women who each year are screened and diagnosed with breast cancer and other breast disease.

And yet there is also a glaring disparity in the diagnosis and treatment of breast disease. According to the Office of Minority Health, African American women are 34 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than white women. African American women are also 10 percent less likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer.

This disparity in screening diagnosis and treatment leads to not only more expensive care in the long run, but far too often death. A report released by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies estimates that the combined costs of such health inequalities and premature deaths in the United States total \$1.24 trillion.

We must eliminate disparities and discriminatory insurance practices impacting minorities and women not only because it's cost effective but because it's the right thing to do.

It's time to provide quality, affordable, and accessible health care with a public plan that allows choice, care, and competition.

POST MAJOR LEGISLATION 72 HOURS BEFORE VOTE TAKES PLACE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it's fitting that Congress pass a bill that gives Members of Congress and the American public 72 hours to read major legislation before Congress votes. Both the stimulus and the national energy bill passed in the House less than 1 day after coming to the floor.

In town halls all across the country, constituents have demanded that each major bill be made available to Members of Congress and the public for at least 72 hours before a vote takes place. We should not rush to pass a sweeping government takeover of health care and energy or advance any other important issue without taking the time to understand fully its impact on American families and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken. Let's give them and their elected leaders 72 hours to read what's in the bills before Congress.

ICE DETENTION REPORT

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Secretary Napolitano and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Secretary John Morton released a much-anticipated report on ICE's detention policies, which detailed observations and recommendations made by former detention policy and planning director, Dora Schriro.

Despite ICE's previously stated goals of focusing on the detention and deportation of dangerous criminal immigrants, Dr. Schriro's report clearly states that two-thirds of the individuals being detained at taxpayer expense by ICE are noncriminal immigrants, a proportion which has stayed constant over the past 2 years.

I am encouraged by Secretary Napolitano's commitment to reforming our Immigration Detention System and her acknowledgment that ICE must create a system that reflects the needs of a largely noncriminal civilian detainee population versus those of a prison population. We must ensure community members that those ICE has classified as "special population," such as parents with minor children, the ill and injured, women, non-violent asylum seekers, are not routinely detained. Those who are eligible and do not present a flight risk or a danger to their community should be able to pay a bond and seek parole.

Luckily, ICE has found successful alternatives to detentions. Secretary Napolitano should continue these alternatives to detention programs.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2997, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 799 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 799

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2997) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

□ 1045

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the

customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 799.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 799 provides for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2997, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report on H.R. 2997 and against its consideration, and the rule provides that the previous question shall be considered as ordered without intervention of any motion except one hour of debate and one motion to recommit, if applicable.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report for the fiscal year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations conference report. This is a good bill, one that went through the regular order. It is, in fact, the third appropriations conference report that this body will consider this year. I want to especially commend Subcommittee Chairwoman ROSA DELAUNO and Ranking Member JACK KINGSTON, as well as the other subcommittee members, for their efforts in completing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is one that normally doesn't get a lot of attention but, in reality, is one of the most important bills that we can pass. I wish the allocation, Mr. Speaker, for this bill, quite frankly, was higher than it is because there is a great need for the programs that make up this bill. This conference report funds the following areas at the Department of Agriculture: public health programs, rural communities, agriculture research, animal health and marketing programs, and conservation. Most importantly, this bill funds domestic and international antihunger and nutrition programs, programs that literally put food in the mouths of hundreds of millions of hungry people here at home and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is \$2.7 billion more than last year and \$325 million more than the President's request, a 13 percent increase over last year's bill. Following my opening statement, we will hear from my friends on the other side, and I expect that they will talk about how this bill spends too much money and that this increase is simply unnecessary, especially during these difficult economic times.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this increase is needed now more than ever. Just look at where the increases in this bill are targeted: to the areas of nutrition, international food assistance, and food